

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8029

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 0810

AMEMBASY PORT MORESBY

CINCPAC

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3070

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PT, AS

SUBJ: TIMOR - INVESTIGATION OF DEATH OF FIVE AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS

1. ON APRIL 27, FONMIN PEACOCK ANNOUNCED THAT A TEAM OF THREE AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATS ASSIGNED IN JAKARTA WOULD ARRIVE IN EAST TIMOR ON APRIL 28 TO INVESTIGATE THE DEATHS OF FIVE AUSTRALIAN TV NEWSMEN KILLED WHEN PRO-INDONESIAN AND FREELIN FORCES FOUGHT ON OCTOBER 16, 1975. PEACOCK SAID THE INDO-NESIANS HAD PLACED NO RESTRICTIONS ON THE MISSION OR ON THE PEOPLE WHO COULD BE INTERVIEWED. THE INQUIRY IS EXPECTED TO LAST ABOUT A WEEK AND THE TEAM WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO PEACOCK.

2. IN ANOTHER ACTION, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO DECIDED ON APRIL 27 TO OPPOSE AN AUSTRALIAN TRADE UNION ATTEMPT TO SHIP HUMANITARIAN AID TO TIMOR. THE FEDERAL CABINET BANNED THE SHIPMENT ON THE ADVICE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO SAID THAT ALL

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AID SHOULD BE CHANNELED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL

RED CROSS, WHICH HE HOPES WILL SOON BE REINSTALLED IN
TIMOR. PEACOCK NOTED THE LIVES OF THE MEN ON THE SHIP
WOULD BE IN DANGER AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NOW WAY
EFFECTIVELY TO DISTRIBUTE THE AID EVEN IF IT ARRIVED
IN TIMOR. PEACOCK PRAISED THE UNIONS FOR WISHING TO
SEND AID BUT MAINTAINED THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION NOT
TO ALLOW SHIPS TO SAIL TO TIMOR WITH SAFETY
GUARANTEE.
HARGROVE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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